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# The Haliburton County ECHO

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## A heart for Haliburton

Singer-songwriter Terra Lightfoot sings *It's Over* Now during her first concert of the year held at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129 hosted by the Haliburton County Folk Society on Saturday, Jan. 28. The concert was a sold out success. See more photos on page 7. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff



## Dysart not against county in rejecting shoreline bylaw

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Haliburton County is on its way toward a fine-tuned version of the contentious Shoreline Preservation Bylaw.

County council held a special meeting to discuss the bylaw Jan. 30. The special meeting was basically for the edification of

the new council elected last October. But a number of issues were identified and discussed about the shoreline bylaw's current draft.

Steve Stone, the county's director of planning, will return to council in February with an updated proposed bylaw for consideration.

Three of the four lower tier municipalities have accepted the Shoreline Preserva-

tion Bylaw. Dysart is the holdout township.

Councillor Murray Fearrey, who is also the mayor of Dysart, said he's been in Haliburton County for almost 40 years, and he's never seen a council issue as controversial at the Shoreline Preservation Bylaw.

"And I think it's because it appears that it's complicated to understand," he said.

"And it appears that it's kind of infringing on the people's rights that they traditionally had."

He said there's been a lot of miscommunication around the issue. And there's nothing personal against the county at the heart of why Dysart's council has yet to accept the legislation.

see DYSART page 3

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# Bridge load limits put people in danger, say residents

JAMES MATTHEWS

*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

Some Dysart residents dependent on the Koshlong Lake bridge fear they have been put in danger by load limits to the bridge.

And they voiced their concerns Jan. 24 during town council's regular public meeting.

Dysart's bridges are inspected every two years. And it was through the course of regular inspection that staff noticed a broken timber girder on the Koshlong Lake bridge. Because of that troubled timber, engineers reduced the load limit of the bridge that spans Burnt River to seven tonnes.

Frances and Ken Hill, residents on Koshlong Lake, spoke to council about the impacts of load-limits on the bridge. Ken Hill charged that the township has known about the bridge's damages since 2020.

Laurie Bruce of the Koshlong Lake Association said there are more than 200 homes and cottages on the lake. As many as 139 of those properties rely on the bridge as their sole access point.

And Ken Hill said the recently imposed weight restrictions have put property owners at greater risk in the event of power outages, forest fires, ice storms, and house fires.

Vehicles and equipment necessary to respond to such incidents weigh more than the bridge's load limit, Ken Hill said.

Further, many people may not be able to have heating propane delivered or have their septic tanks pumped.

Even snowclearing is hampered as plows are not allowed to cross the bridge.

"And what about accidents and that sort of thing," he said.

Ken Hill said properties that could be developed are stymied. And Camp Wanakita and Camp Northern Lights are impacted by the bridge's weight restric-



Dysart et al staff have reduce the weight limit on the Koshlong Lake Road bridge crossing the Burnt River to seven tonnes following the discovery of a broken timber girder during a regular inspection. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

tions.

"We think this is an emergency situation," he said. "The safety and wellbeing of all the residents and the camps are at risk due to the load limits."

Ken Hill asked if there was a plan to restore full load access to the bridge in November when the change was made. Residents need to know details about such a plan. And, if there's no plan, he'd like to know why such details haven't been worked out.

He claims the township has known about a crack in the bridge's north middle girder since at least 2020.

"And we have photographs from the inspection report done by the engineer in 2020 showing a crack," he said. "And then in 2022, the same crack somewhat larger."

He suggested the municipality postpone implementing the load limit bylaw until there is a "workable solution." And council should request a new, updated

engineering assessment.

The evaluation that was done last year was based on the assumption of the bridge's continued use with weight restrictions over five years. If the town is able to replace or reinforce the bridge in one or two years, the analysis may be reworked, he said.

"And it may be feasible to remove the load limits in the meantime," Ken Hill said.

The town could also get another assessment from second engineering firm.

And, he said, there's another, temporary means to address the damaged bridge and subsequent load restrictions in an emergency situation: a Bailey bridge.

Dysart's Asset Management Plan states the technical level of service is to have no bridges with a load posting, he said.

"The importance of a fully functioning bridge cannot be overstated when the bridge provides the only means of access

to a large developed area," Ken Hill said. "The property owners, the residents, and the general public have relied on Dysart to ensure that a full functioning bridge is there to serve them."

Mayor Murray Fearrey said town staff is working with engineers to devise a short-term solution for the damaged bridge until a long-term solution can be accomplished.

Council will have a staff report in the next few weeks that will offer details about what may be done to return full operation of the bridge, Fearrey said.

"We're taking it very seriously," he said. "We'll get back to you with an answer when we get one."

Fearrey said the previously identified damage was merely a crack in the girder. Last year, it was discovered that crack had grown into a break, he said.

Given the age of the bridge, it's difficult to determine what type of footings it has. So the town is taking a safe approach in its course of action.

"We can't go against the engineers' report or we'd have a huge liability," Fearrey said.

Frances Hill said the weight restriction has been detrimental to their finishing a home which is being constructed. She said the house is about halfway to being finished.

"We are looking to get some equipment across [the bridge] to finish the project so we could move in," Frances Hill said.

Fearrey said the town is looking into the possibility of installing a Bailey bridge.

"If we have to do a full engineering report, then we're going to have this for a little bit of time," the mayor said. "It's going to take some time. We're looking for alternatives."

Bruce said residents were informed of the weight restriction more by word of mouth than a formal notice from the municipality.

"Going forward, we would like to see this communication issue addressed," she said.

## Happy trails

Rocco Morelli, left, from Nobleton, and Joe Forch from Balsam Lake rode from Balsam Lake, through Kinmount, then to Haliburton on the HCSA B103 trail before stopping for lunch in Haliburton on Saturday, Jan. 28. They stopped at McKeck's Tap and Grill for lunch and looked forward to the ride back to Balsam Lake on great trail conditions. /DAVID ZILSTRA Staff

## OPP snowmobile safety

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and its Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) partners are cautioning snowmobilers about the increased risks posed by a milder winter and reminding them of the common sense approach needed to avoid a tragic outcome to their riding season.

The late onset of cold temperatures and lack of snow in many parts of Ontario have set a particularly dangerous stage for snowmobilers, especially those who are considering riding on frozen waterways. Close to 40 per cent of OPP-investigated snowmobile fatalities have occurred on frozen lakes and rivers over the past 10 years. Snowmobilers are therefore urged to avoid all frozen waterways at all times.

The majority of OFSC trails are currently unavailable and snowmobilers need to stay off all OFSC trails except those that are open. Check for trail status updates on the OFSC Interactive Trail Guide when planning your ride.

With speeding, driving too fast for the

conditions and alcohol/drug-impairment the leading causes in snowmobile fatalities, snowmobilers are reminded that the conscious choice to include these (and other) risks in their ride - more so than the risks themselves - make snowmobilers their own worst enemy when tragedy strikes.

With Snowmobile Safety Week kicking off across the province this weekend, make every ride a safe one so that you can enjoy the world-class snowmobiling Ontario has to offer and, more importantly, so that you can get home safely to your family.

*Submitted by the Ontario Provincial Police*



# Debate continues about short-term rental regulations

JAMES MATTHEWS

*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

Haliburton County is a little closer to a framework to govern short-term property rentals in the lower-tier municipalities.

It's an initiative started during the last term of council and it was discussed by the current administration Jan. 25 during its public meeting. Council directed staff to come back with a report based on council discussion that will result in a final draft bylaw to regulate short-term rentals (STR). The final draft will be forwarded to the lower tier municipalities for consideration.

Stephen Stone, the county's planning director, likened the work done in the last term to a fact-finding mission to gauge how many business operators would like to register their short-term rental property as a business.

The project was initiated in summer 2022 by the previous county council. Consultants J.L Richards (JLR) prepared a report on the issue called Haliburton County Short-Term Rental Review.

The review provided insight into the short-term rental accommodation policies for comparator municipalities. It included a summary of public consultation with various stakeholder groups. And the report suggested framework options for STR regulations and licensing to be considered by council.

"The previous council actually suggested they look at a couple of local examples that were very close to Haliburton County," Stone said. "Lake of Bays is one

that stands out as one that the previous council asked for them to explore."

The final report tabled in October included two draft bylaws.

The first was a draft registration bylaw which would require rental operators to register their STR in the near term in order to determine their impact on Haliburton's lakes.

The second was a draft licensing bylaw which had the effect of regulating STRs over the long term. The municipalities would have to develop a definition for short-term rentals and include it in zoning bylaws, Stone said.

"Trying to develop a definition for a zoning bylaw and have it approved by council and then approved by the Ontario Lands Tribunal is certainly a challenge," he said.

Operators will be responsible for such things as demonstrating their septic systems are fine and their properties conform to building and fire codes.

"That all would involve area municipal staff support," Stone said. "That, too, would just further complicate this licensing bylaw."

Councillor Murray Fearrey, mayor of Dysart, said there are a number of things that become nuisance concerns for neighbours of rented properties. Those include just what you'd imagine related to the behaviours of people renting the property.

"I think we should deal with those," Fearrey said. "We've got two-bedroom cottages sleeping 14 [people] and seven and eight cars in the parking lot with dogs running all over the place."

"Those are the things that need to go into this bylaw. Let's keep it as simple and enforceable as we can."

Warden Liz Daniels, Algonquin Highlands' mayor, said she realizes such rentals contribute to the county economy. But she's concerned about the impact on the county's housing stock.

"It's just horrendous," she said.

Coun. Bob Carter, the mayor of Minden Hills, suggested a framework of regulations be developed at the county level that could then be adopted by the lower tier municipalities.

Each township would cap the number

of licenses that would be granted, he said.

Rental establishments are proposed to be sorted into three classes based on number of properties operated by owners and the number of nights rented per year. Fees range from \$250 for a class A license, which would govern the operation of one STR, to \$750 for a class C license for the operation of three or more STRs.

Carter said those fees are too low. Short-term rentals in some locations charge as much as \$10,000 a weekend, he said.

"There's a lot of money in this," Carter said.

## OPP looking for witnesses to MVC

Members of the Haliburton Highlands Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are investigating a serious collision involving a single snowmobile that occurred on Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) trail E.

On Jan. 25, 2023, members of the Haliburton Highlands OPP and emergency crews responded to a single snowmobile collision on OFSC trail E, south of Waxwing Drive in the Municipality of Dysart et al. The collision was reported to have occurred shortly after 2:30 pm. One person was transported to a medical facility for treatment regarding serious injuries.

OPP Technical Collision Investigators are assisting with this investigation. The investigation into the cause of the collision is ongoing.

Haliburton Highlands OPP is requesting any witnesses who have information about this collision, dash camera footage and have not yet spoken to police, to contact the Detachment at (705) 286-1431 or 1-888-310-1122.

Snowmobilers are reminded to use caution at all times. Snowmobiling is an off-road activity that occurs in an unpredictable and uncontrollable natural environment. The OPP is committed to saving lives on Ontario's highways, trails and waterways through the reduction of preventable injury and death.

*Submitted by the  
Haliburton Highlands OPP*

## Dysart voting against bylaw for 'greater good of the county'

**from page 1**

"I don't think I've ever voted against anything I thought was for the greater good of the county," Fearrey said.

Coun. Walt McKechnie, Dysart's deputy mayor, assured Dysart residents that he and the mayor aren't putting their heads in the sand on the issue. They've discussed the bylaw in depth.

"We're very positive about the direction we might be going in," McKechnie said.

Warden Liz Daniels, the mayor of Algonquin Highlands, agreed that the bylaw has spawned the most controversy of any issue she's experienced. Some of the reaction to the bylaw may be indicative of a sea change in the electorate Canada-wide.

"It has created a reaction that I've found rather surprising," she said. "I didn't realize that there was such a nasty underbelly to the county."

"It's there and it seems to me that it's something that's pervasive across the country and it's unfortunate."

Coun. Bob Carter, the mayor of Minden Hills, said his municipality is just downriver from Dysart. Anything that happens there has bearing on Minden, he said.

"Not every optimal solution is going to be perfect," he said, and added that nothing will be accomplished if the end goal is perfection.

Carter said the regulations associated with the bylaw is what's important. That's all "legal-speak" that typically isn't of interest to members of the general public.

People, as with other bylaws, are concerned about how the shoreline preservation rules will be applied, he said.

Coun. Cecil Ryall, deputy mayor of Highlands East, said he supports some kind of accreditation or licensing for contractors, something that says they know the ins and outs of the requirements of shoreline preservation.

Likewise, he suggested something similar could be done for property owners on lakefronts. In his own case, Ryall said he built his own home: Everything from the septic system, to electrical, and plumbing.

"There's a few more inspections you have go through when you're doing it as a private citizen, but it can be done," he said.

He would've benefited from an instructional course on how to effectively build a house. It could include all the intricacies of legalities that apply to building.

"I'm hoping that when we do this, we set it up so that the average citizen can also get educated and allowed to do the job," Ryall said.

Fearrey said he's seen in recent years many contractors based outside the county doing work at local properties.

"It's not just locals that do this," Fearrey said.

And that could complicate a certification process.

Daniels said the shoreline preservation bylaw needs to have teeth regarding its enforcement. Penalties for infractions of other bylaws such as the Shoreline Tree Preservation Bylaw aren't effective deterrents, she said.

"Wealthy people developing their property don't care about a \$900 fine," said Daniels. "They're more than willing to pay the fee and carry on with what they want to do."

Stone said that, when it comes to setting ticket fines, the county is at the whim of the judge who is reviewing the offences.

"But, yes. It's not a large sum for the total destruction of the shoreline," Stone said of the tree bylaw fine.

Should the violation be severe enough and the shoreline's destruction dramatic enough, he said the county could go before a judge and ask that the violator be summoned to answer for the infraction.

"In that realm, you do have opportunities for larger sums," Stone said. "For a

private individual, it could be as high as \$50,000. For a corporation, it's \$100,000."

Another avenue to a more effective penalty would be a court-ordered rehabilitation of the shoreline.

Coun. Jennifer Dailloux, deputy mayor of Algonquin Highlands, said the bylaw is a planning instrument. That makes it a document that regulates development.

"It's something that offers structure around how development goes forward," Dailloux said. "So, for me, education, incentives, social pressure, all of those softer yet perhaps even more crucial elements, they belong here. But I don't see them as belonging in this bylaw itself."

Those objectives would be affixed to a

more comprehensive lake health program.

"We can put a lot of emphasis on behaviour change," she said. "And behaviour change is something that can't exist in a bylaw."

Ryall agreed the education component of the bylaw's promotion to the public needs to go ahead.

Daniels said more needs to be done to encourage property owners to restore the shoreline properties that have been damaged.

"Those are the sorts of things that needs some creativity," she said. "We're all struggling with a budget that's challenging. It's my experience that incentives cost money."

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# A new face behind Haliburton Frame and Photo

VIVIAN COLLINGS

*Editor*

After nearly 30 years years of seeing Luke Schell's friendly face behind the counter of Haliburton Frame and Photo, another familiar smile is now there to carry on the tradition.

As Schell moves into retirement to focus on his own life moments, Scott Walling will be there to continue framing and printing yours.

"It aligns with a lot of things that I want to do, so I thought, 'Yup, I want to do that. I want to be that person,'" Walling said about his decision to buy the business from Schell.

Being apprehensive to retire previously, Schell said the decision to pass on the business to Walling was an easy, "Let me think about it... yes."

"I was expecting to work at this well into my elderly years just as a hobby, but then Scott and I started talking, and it was an easy decision to make," Schell said. "Scott's one of those young people that is so capable, and it's so refreshing to see people like that. I'm excited for him."

Walling first moved to Haliburton in 2015 to attend Haliburton School of Art and Design (HSA+D). After his first program, he wasn't quite ready to leave.

"I stayed to attend more programs at the college, and then I was hired at the college, so I stayed," Walling said. "I didn't have a plan when I moved here. I didn't even plan on staying longer than four months, but then I just kept finding things to stay for, bought a house, joined a bunch of committees and boards. I really just settled."

This moment is full circle for the HSA+D graduate, having previously managed a portrait studio and framing store in his hometown of Peterborough.

As a photographer and artist, Walling got to know Schell when he started going to Haliburton Frame and Photo to get his work framed and pick up supplies.

"Recently, Luke had been talking to me about eventually planning on retiring or selling and his ideas for that," he said.

With Walling's passion for photography and art, he knew taking over the store was the perfect next step.

Walling has immersed himself in the Haliburton arts community and is currently the chair of the Arts Council Haliburton Highlands, secretary of the Haliburton Sculpture Forest, and continues to work in the Book Store and Centre for Making at HSA+D.



He will continue to work at the college three days a week while being open at Haliburton Frame and Photo on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"My vision is to upkeep the framing and photo services and to really push the framing. There was this shop in Peterborough that I would always frequent for frames, and they had a 'starving artist' corner of framing supplies. I would like to eventually have something like that here," he said.

He also has a vision of offering custom, creative frames from scratch.

"I've been collecting weird and unique frames in my basement for years, so obviously life had a plan for me," Walling laughed, and said he feels like Leo from *That 70s Show*.

Schell bought Haliburton Framing and Photo in 1995, and he said the world of photo printing and processing has come a long way since.

"At that time, we were in to film processing. It was a one hour film processing photo hut. In the summer time, we would do well over 100 films a day with four staff members working," Schell said.

When digital cameras came along in the 2000s, the focus of Haliburton Frame and Photo shifted, but his love for serving the community stayed the same.

"It's a lovely business to work at because it's all happy

Luke Schell, left, recently sold Haliburton Frame and Photo to Scott Walling after 28 years of owning the business. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

stories. I've gotten to print people's best moments," Schell said.

Schell said he feels anxious excitement for his own future, like a high school student about to graduate.

"I'm heading off into a new world. It's exciting. It's a big change coming. This has been my identity for 28 years in this great little community we have."

Schell said the customers were the main reason why he loved the business so much.

"In the 28 years that I have been running this business, there might have been two times where I feel we didn't have a reconciliation of some kind," Schell said. "I've had such great customers. I love having fun with people."

Haliburton Frame and Photo will continue to offer passport and ID photos and photo printing services.

The shop is located at 177 Highland Street, unit 1 and can be found online haliframesphotos.com or on Instagram and Facebook.

They can be contacted at hfp@mail.com or by calling 705-457-2713.

"If you have any questions, if you want to know if something can be done, ask. Just drop in, call me, or send me an email. I'd love to chat," Walling said.

Watch for a feature on Schell's career and his involvement with the Haliburton BIA in next week's *Echo*.

## OPP investigate collision between snowmobile and motor vehicle

On Jan. 26, 2023, members of the Haliburton Highlands OPP and emergency crews responded to a collision

on County Road 21 and OFSC trail B103 in the Municipality of Dysart et al. The collision was reported to have

occurred at approximately 4:41 pm. One person was transported to a medical facility for treatment of minor injuries.

As a result of this investigation, a 16-year-old young person has been charged with disobey sign under the Motorized Snow Vehicle Act.

Haliburton Highlands OPP is requesting any witnesses who have information about this collision, including dash camera footage and have not yet spoken to police, to contact the detachment at 705-286-1431 or 1-888-310-1122.

Snowmobilers are reminded to use caution at all times. Snowmobiling is an off-road activity that occurs in an unpredictable and uncontrollable natural environment. The OPP is committed to saving lives on Ontario's highways, trails and waterways through the reduction of preventable injury and death.

*Submitted by the  
Haliburton Highlands OPP*



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# All in, Hook, Line & Sinker

VIVIAN COLLINGS

*Editor*

The wait is over.

Hook, Line & Sinker is now open for business, and the Haliburton community's overwhelming excitement far exceeded the expectations of owners Taylor Pridham and Veronica VanLeeuwen.

After only four full days of being open, the new restaurant closed for one extra day on Sunday, Jan. 29 to have time to restock and will be back on Wednesday, Feb. 1.

"It's a good problem to have," laughed Pridham. "We weren't anticipating the amount of support and how long people have been waiting to come in the door."

The newly-renovated spot at 126 Highland Street has already proved to be a central space in the community that encourages connection.

"It seems like a lot of old friends are coming here to get together already," Pridham said. "It's a lot of fun. Seeing this place actually filled with people was every bit as good as I imagined it could have been. We're pretty thrilled with everybody's reaction."

The mother/son duo is originally from Creemore, a town in Simcoe County smaller than Haliburton.

"I'm definitely used to smaller towns and wanted an outdoor lifestyle after attending school in the city. After cottaging as a family here for 15 years, we realized we'd much rather be here all of the time," Pridham said.

They were on the lookout for a new business venture, with VanLeeuwen having always been an entrepreneur and Pridham having years of restaurant expe-



The bar at Hook, Line & Sinker is central in the restaurant and encourages mingling and connection. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

rience under his belt.

"We were quite familiar with this location because we were frequent at Baked and Battered. When we saw it come up for sale, we knew we could combine our two career paths perfectly," Pridham said.

The inspiration for Hook, Line & Sinker's design came from other restaurants that have inspired them over the years.

They worked with PT Contracting, Bukhari Design, and local contractors to help make their vision come to life.

"When my mom stumbled across Baked and Battered, we thought about it for a while and weighed the ups and downs, and then we finally just said,

'We're in it, hook, line and sinker,' and right away we said, 'Yup, that's the name. We're all in,'" Pridham said.

Pridham and VanLeeuwen came into possession of the space in Sept. 2021, so the restaurant has been in the works for a year and a half to make sure all details were ironed out before opening.

Hook, Line & Sinker currently has 35 staff members. They hope to increase that number in the summer months when their patio opens to seat 45 more guests.

"We've had some of the most patient staff that we hired on about a year ago. We couldn't be more thankful for the individuals we have taken on as a team.

We're really grateful for all the people we have aboard," he said.

To start their new staff off slowly, they decided to do a quiet opening on Wednesday, Jan. 25 to avoid an overwhelming rush.

"It went so well. We had a big snowstorm the first day, so it was just a nice slow ease into opening. On Thursday, it seemed like the word started to get out, so we steadily picked up and doubled the amount of people each day."

On their menu, fish and chips, seafood options, pub sandwiches, mains, and shareables are featured.

"We really like the idea of community-based food where you can bring a bunch of items to the table and try a few different options," Pridham said. "The menu is something that we're rotating seasonally to keep things fresh."

To cater to those with busy schedules, they have three hot and three cold sandwiches on the takeout menu, along with muffins, loaves, and coffee: espressos, lattes, and macchiatos.

Boshkung Brewing created a pilsner called Hook, Line & Sinker, and the restaurant has a fully-stocked fridge of cans for purchase.

"We want everybody to leave here happy, full, and to feel like they can sit down with the community, and enjoy something a little different," Pridham said.

Hook, Line & Sinker can be found on Instagram @thehookhaliburton and Facebook. They are open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays, and from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

"We're so excited to tackle week two," Pridham said.

## Grass Lake condo developer seeks reserved sewer access

JAMES MATTHEWS

*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

Paul Wilson will pay half the cost now to secure sewer access for a Grass Lake condo development with the remaining money to be paid in two years, should construction get the green light.

Wilson, the proponent behind Harburn Holdings, spoke to Dysart town council Jan. 24 to get the ball rolling to reserve sewage capacity for the 88 condominium units he's planned to build on Grass Lake at Peninsula Road and County Road 21.

Dysart et al. approved last fall Harburn Holdings to pursue a zoning bylaw amendments that will allow an application to proceed.

The proponent seeks amendments to Haliburton County's Official Plan and zoning bylaw that would pave the way for lot severance and the construction of the housing units.

Municipal planners have previously indicated in reports to council that Harburn Holdings' proposal is consistent with provincial policy, the Municipal Official Plan, and represents good planning.

It's been about two years since Wilson began to pursue the development. And, he said, he's spent as much as \$250,000 on various studies and peer reviews of those

studies.

In order to service the sewer needs of the 88 units, he said town consultants have told him his project will require 70 equivalent residential units [ERUs] of sewer capacity. Each ERU is valued at \$4,700, he said.

"In the event that my proposal gets approved, I will have to pay \$329,000, which is fine with me," Wilson said.

The problem that he's facing is, being two years into the process, he'd like some assurance from the township that he will obtain the required ERUs.

"I'm told that they are available, but they are not necessarily assigned to me," Wilson said.

He offered to pay half of the \$329,000 now and await the county's decision.

"That means I write you a cheque for \$164,500 today or whenever we come to some agreement," he said.

He doesn't expect the town to reserve the ERUs indefinitely, so he's put a two-year limit on the process, he said.

Dysart has approved the condo development and has forwarded Wilson's proposal to Haliburton County council. The upper tier body will consider the development in February, and there's been indication a decision could be made as early as March.

Should the county deny his proposal,

Wilson said he plans to immediately appeal such a decision to the Ontario Land Tribunal. It could take as long as a year just to get the appeal scheduled, he said.

Should the county approve the project, a third party could object to it and refer it back to the tribunal.

"Again, we're back into another year," Wilson said.

Further, he said he hasn't been able to apply for land severances until Haliburton County approves the change to its Official Plan. That could take a year, he said.

"I sure hope this doesn't go on for two years," Wilson said.

If the issues aren't resolved within the two years, he said the township would refund his payment of half the cost of the 70 ERUs.

Mayor Murray Fearrey said Wilson's offer is fair.

Wilson's development has generated much interest among residents.

Before a special council meeting to discuss the endeavour last fall, municipal staff received 11 letters of support for the condo development, 14 letters of concern, 15 objections, and a petition with 912 area residents' signatures.

Despite the lack of housing options in Dysart and the county as a whole, objec-

tions to the 88 units are borne of concerns about increased noise and light pollution at Grass Lake, and 88 condos would leave a larger footprint than a dozen cottages in the area.

Some residents want to ensure the integrity of Grass Lake and nearby wetlands is protected. They're worried fish habitat and that of various bird species will be compromised by the development.

Much of the opposition has been rallied by a group called Friends of Grass Lake. In a Jan. 22 letter to council on behalf of the group, Carolyn Langdon wrote that Wilson has previously acknowledged Dysart does not have any policies to deal with the current request.

At the Sept. 29 special meeting, Langdon said citizens were led to believe that Dysart had ample capacity for additional septic connections. But she said staff provided no written reports or any other evidence to back that claim.

Fearrey told the local media weeks afterward that the sewage treatment plant needs to be improved to accommodate housing projects that are on the drawing board.

"We strongly believe that according special treatment to this proposed development would not be in the best interests of the community," Langdon wrote in her letter to council.

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2016,2020,2021

# points of view



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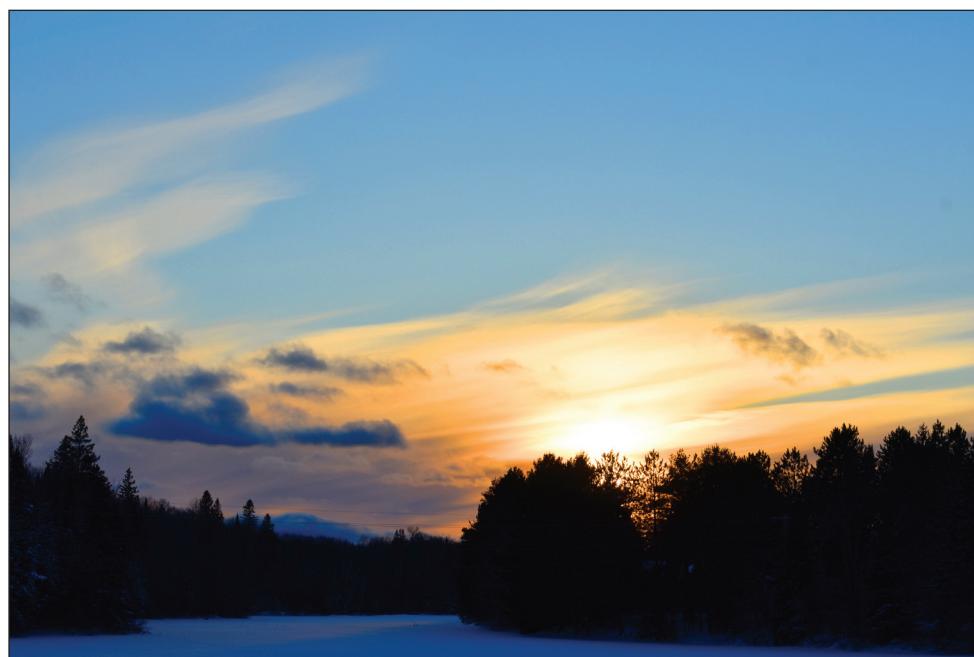
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A Friday night sunset on Koshlong Lake. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

## The circle of life after death

*Please note: This editorial discusses death and details about burials.*

LAST WEEK, the Rotary Club of Haliburton's guest speaker was Terry Moore, the president of the Haliburton Highlands Green Burial Society (HHGBS).

I wasn't there, but my Mom was. It sparked a very interesting conversation that we've never had with each other before; one that I hope I can start here, too.

When Emily Stonehouse wrote her story *Green Burial: A topic of ongoing conversation* in December, we had an interesting conversation, too.

Both exchanges lasted a while and were very insightful.

I found myself getting worked up both times about something I never thought I'd be passionate about: death. What happens to our physical body after death, in particular.

This is such a complex, sensitive topic. Death is uncomfortable to address. I've always avoided thinking about it whenever possible.

But, I think the members of HHGBS are shedding light on such an important part of life.

There's so much learn, I am in no way an expert, and there's no way I'll be able to cover everything I'd like to say in one editorial, but I'll start with some of my most pressing thoughts.

The aim of a green burial is to complete the "circle of life."

When an animal comes to the end of its life, its remains are used as nutrients in soil for other living things that are still in the middle of their life cycle. While that animal was living, it used the nutrients of other deceased organisms to survive, too.

Humans are primates, which are mammals, which are animals. We are and always will be part of that circle of life of all living organisms.

"In a green or natural burial, the

human body is returned to Earth to decompose naturally and help nourish the endless circle of life," reads the HHGBS website.

As an intelligent, feeling species, we are concerned with ensuring a legacy for other humans that live after us, but with green burials, that includes nature surrounding the ground where we are buried, too.

As current, traditional burials are right now, scientists have discovered that they don't contribute this circle of life in the best way, and they may actually be causing some harm.

The chemicals used in embalming processes release toxins into the environment, millions of gallons each year, said Terry Moore.

Cremation releases hundreds of thousands of tonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere each year, as well as other harmful gaseous emissions.

It's shocking to me that green burials aren't a norm as of right now, but they are certainly gaining momentum.

In Haliburton County currently, there are

only two cemeteries with designated green burial areas. One is in Algonquin Highlands and one is in Highlands East.

I understand that there are so many aspects that play pivotal roles in a burial decision, such as religion, legality, and availability of options. Even the seasons determine whether or not a green burial can take place.

But to me, it seems that green burials should be made available to all those that align with the idea of them, and we should be working towards making the green burial option as accessible as traditional burials.

More information can be found on the Haliburton Highlands Green Burial Society's website haliburtongreenburial.ca.

## Editorial



vivian  
collings

## Haliburton Framing and Photo

**"E**very moment is made glorious by the light of love," said Rumi.

I really do love living in Haliburton County. It is a special place on this wondrous and precious planet that we live on.

I work hard to never take it all for granted. I'm writing this article as the snow is falling, and we have friends visiting for the weekend. We've been skiing, snowshoeing and shovelling all weekend. We couldn't be happier.

Last night Jim and I attended the Terra Lightfoot concert at the Legion, sponsored by the Haliburton County Folk Society. The show was sold out, Thom Lambert opened for Terra, and it was a fantastic evening.

Terra lights up the stage, and her band is equally bright. Tara lives in Haliburton County now, and her neighbours were in attendance. It's this kind of community that keeps us healthy, connected and belonging.

I personally try to celebrate every good news story about our county. Every good thing that happens make this place a wonderful place to live, and visit.

There are so many fabulous things happening in downtown Haliburton right now. Scott Walling, from Walling Studio (wallingsstudios.com) has taken over Haliburton Framing and Photo from Luke Schell. Luke has retired after many years of dedicated service.

I know Scott from a distance. He often comes into the cafe where we have coffee each morning. He is always so friendly, kind, and has a big smile on his face. We always say good morning to each other, and

sometimes we have a quick chat about being creative.

Two years ago, Scott made these funky little felted gnomes and had them for sale in the cafe at Christmas time. My husband loves gnomes, and so I got him one as a gift.

That gnome has sat in our living room since it arrived on that Christmas Day. It is a little reminder to me to be creative, be funky, and be kind. It all matters.

"Scott is a multidisciplinary artist working in numerous mediums; analog & digital photography, printmaking, jewellery, fibre arts, sculpture, painting, and drawing. He also works at Haliburton School of Art + Design in many positions, including Coordinator of the Centre for Making."

He volunteers with the Art Council. His plan is to combine the store - Haliburton Framing and Photo (haliframes-photos.co) with his job at the college. On his website, he says, "I will help you present your art to the

world."

It is so exciting for the community to have this young businessman starting his business and contributing to our community. If we want businesses like his to succeed, we need to support them. If we want our downtown to thrive we need to shop locally when we can.

Scott and other small businesses are the people who support our hockey teams, our soccer clubs, our curling rinks etc. Scott is someone who loves art, love supporting people in their art and loves his life here in Haliburton. That is a guy we want to keep around!

*Tales from  
the great*



lynda  
shadbolt

## Green meadow

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# points of view

## Little black book

ONE OF the occupational hazards of being a humour columnist is that you come up with great ideas for columns – and then end up writing ones like this instead. This is almost always because you forgot the great idea you had.

Forgetting a great idea is not something that a new humour columnist is initially good at, but with a little practice and experience, it soon becomes second nature. Not to brag, but I haven't remembered a good idea in 15 years.

That's why I recently bought myself a little black book. And no, I did not get it from the Museum of Ancient History.

I understand your point though. Now that we have cell phones, little black books are practically obsolete.

But when I was a kid, men - real men - used to carry little black books to keep all their phone numbers in. As soon as they found a serious girlfriend, however, she would insist that they burn or throw away that little black book.

That's because the real players would keep phone numbers of their many girlfriends, past and present, in a little black book. That's right, some fellas needed a whole book.

I was not one of them, however.

In fact, I never had a little black book – or even a pamphlet. The only reason why I would have filled an entire book with phone numbers of lady friends would have been because I tend to print in extremely large font sizes –

generally 72-point Comic Sans.

Instead, on the rare occasion that a young woman offered her phone number, I generally wrote it on the palm of my hand. Which would have been great, had I not had sweaty palms every time a young woman consented to giving me her phone number. The result was, by the time I got home, I would have an unreadable collection of smeared numbers on my hand. And, even if I could somehow decipher them, I would frequently find that the woman in question had given me the number of our local pizza place, which is why I still consider pizza a comfort food.

In short, I missed out on the whole little black book thing.

So, I hope that explains why I am somewhat excited about finally owning one. And, also why I asked Jenn if she would give me her phone number so I could put it in my little black book.

Jenn, being too young to recall the whole little black book era, consented, but only after reminding me that I already have her phone number on my contact list in my phone.

"That's true," I said. "But what if I lose my phone?"

"Well, then," she replied, "you won't have any way to call me so it won't matter that you have my number in your little black book."

"I could go find a phone booth," I said.

She just sighed. But then she consented to giving me her phone number.

"OK, go get your little black book," she said.

It turns out I forgot where I left it.

So, I returned to Jenn and had her write down her phone number on the palm of my sweaty hand, until I found my little black book.

I did end up finding it too. And I quickly wrote what I thought was her number in it.

Later that day, I ordered a fully loaded pizza.



### Loon Tales

steve  
galea



### pic of the past

**H**arry Hutchings, left, Charlie Burke, and others stand with deer during hunting season in Haliburton in the late 1930s. Harry Hutchings passed away in 1942. /Submitted by Daniel Hutchings

### letters to the editor

## Accomplishments of the Eagle Lake Women's Society

#### To the Editor,

For the last 30 years, the Echo has been a great friend of the Eagle Lake Women's Society who came into being on Mar. 25, 1937. The Echo has brought to life in story form and pictures the activities and good deeds of ELWS. For those of you not familiar with ELWS they have a magnificent record of helping others. For you to understand how great is the work they have done, I would refer you to the athletes who have been honoured at the AJ LaRue Arena. Most of the athletes are being honoured for short term achievements. The ELWS now has 86 years of community service under its belt. Sadly however the sun is setting on the society and they are currently in recess until April 2023. At that time, we can anticipate a decision to wind up the society. For most of you the most notable difference will be no more quilt raffle tickets for sale at the Eagle Lake Country Market. Currently with only one executive board member, the ELWS can't meet the Provincial regulatory requirements to be granted a lottery license. However the 2023 quilt is currently under construction and an infusion of new members might help meet the regulatory requirements.

The ELWS was also the driving force behind the Rhubarb Festival which ran for 10 years and ended in 2001. For many it will bring back memories of the battle to be named the Rhubarb Capital of Ontario. The funds raised at the Festival were used to turn what was waste land into an outdoor recreation facility that could be used by all residents of Eagle Lake. Today it is known as Eagle Lake Beach.

At the end of its run, the Rhubarb Festival had a \$5,000 surplus. In Sept. 2022 the balance was around \$3,500 and one of the account administrators advised that they were leaving Eagle Lake and no longer able to be involved in the account. The Eagle Lake Community Church agreed to become the short term administrator of the funds. A series of discussions took place in October, November and December about how to use the money for its intended purpose, i. e. improve Eagle Lake Beach. In January, a proposal was submitted to Dysart Council for their consideration. This proposal was on the Dysart Council agenda for the 24th, January meeting and the meeting was broadcast on the Dysart YouTube channel. You are all encouraged to view how the proposal was handled by Council and draw your own conclusions on whether this was an appropriate way for Council to deal with the item. If anyone has a question about this matter they can submit it to:

eaglelakerhubarfestival@gmail.com. Arrangements can be made for those not having access to the internet to view the meeting at the Eagle Lake Community Church.

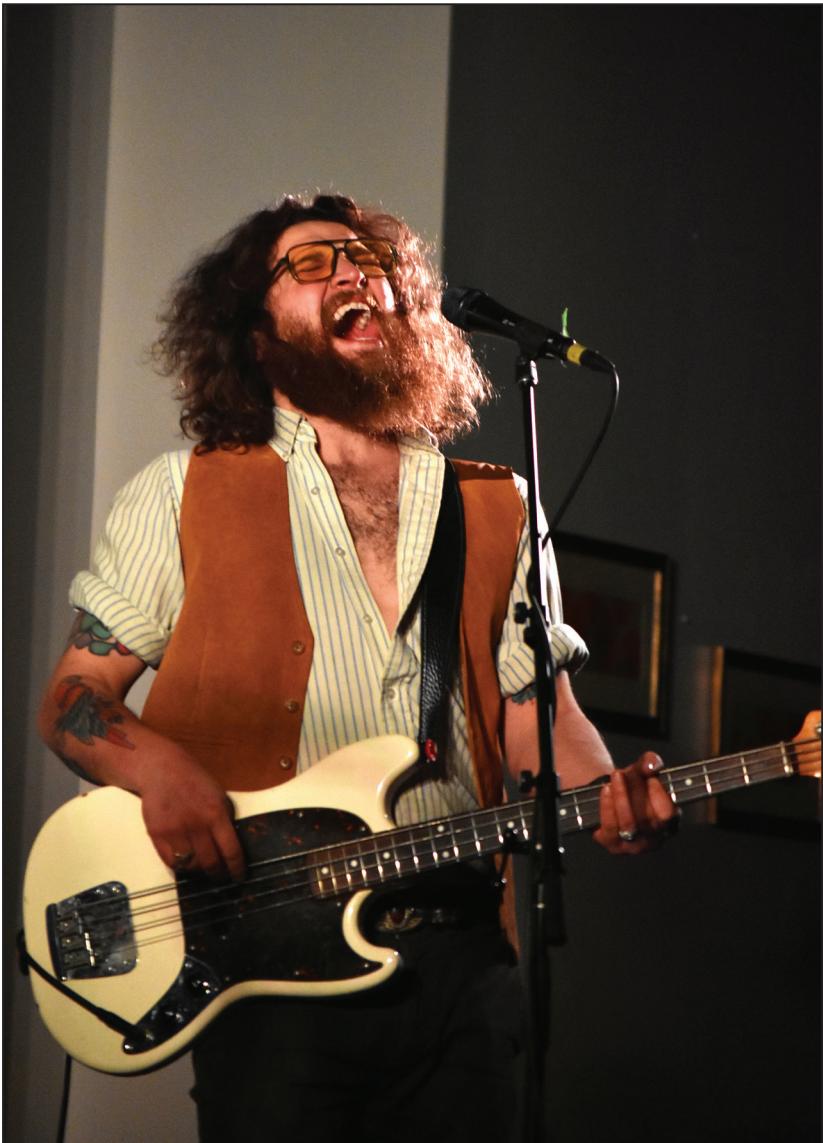
As we move forward we will await the decision from ELWS on how the Rhubarb Festival funds should be spent and continue to look for ways for the ELWS to receive the recognition it deserves. It is sad that Dysart et al has chosen not to be a partner.

Peter McLuskey,  
Eagle Lake

**Letters to the Editor note:** Submissions are subject to editing for newspaper style and punctuation.

## Lighting up the stage

Bassist Elijah Abrams sings during the Terra Lightfoot concert hosted by the Haliburton County Folk Society at the Haliburton Legion on Saturday, Jan. 28. The event was a sold out success. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff



Singer songwriter Terra Lightfoot sings *It's Over Now* during her first concert of the year.



Attendees of the Terra Lightfoot concert hosted by the Haliburton County Folk Society clap for local musician and artist Thom Lambert as he opens the show.

# County's growth is ahead of expectations

JAMES MATTHEWS

*Local Journalism Initiative Reporter*

Haliburton County has already exceeded what was forecasted to be its housing needs by 2036.

The thing is, it's only 2023.

And, as of the 2021 census, the county is at about 80 per cent of what it was thought the population count would be by 2036.

That was the situation described by Jamie Cook, a managing partner with Watson and Associates Economists Ltd., when county council met Jan. 25. He outlined the parameters of what would be considered in a comprehensive review of the county demographics done by Watson and Associates.

County council awarded the firm a \$60,000 contract to launch a development charges study.

"We're far ahead of what the anticipated numbers were, which is going to require us to do a bit of additional work," said Warden Liz Danielsen, who is the mayor of Algonquin Highlands.

Since the release of its 2017 Official Plan, Haliburton County has been experiencing significantly stronger growth pressure than previously anticipated.

The 2021 census results indicate that the county is at about 80 per cent of its 2036 population forecast. And the county has exceeded that housing forecast.

"As a result of these recent growth pres-

sures, there's a need to update the county's long-term population, housing, and employment forecast," Cook said.

The results of the comprehensive review growth forecast will form a foundational document that will inform the update to the county's Development Charges Background Study [DCBS] currently underway, and the county's Official Plan [OP] update which is anticipated to commence in the near term.

The county is an attractive destination for retirees and people who wish to be seasonal residents at cottage properties.

"This also has an impact on how the county is growing, both with respect to its permanent population and its seasonal population base," Cook said.

The Watson and Associates population model will forecast both the seasonal and permanent population growth by age, he said. And that will paint a picture of Haliburton's housing needs by type and density, affordability, and tenure.

Cook said the information will ultimately be a foundation for future studies such as the county's long-term affordable housing needs.

Key tasks the firm would probe in its comprehensive review include a community structure analysis; a demographic, economic and socio-economic profile with an assessment of growth drivers; forecasts for long-term population, household and employment; and the allocation of population, housing and employment.

Cook envisions a five-month process with a study start-up this month. Then, in

February, they'll get into a county-wide population, household, and employment forecast to 2051. Growth allocations by urban and rural area will be considered by March.

He said a draft report of would be done by April with the final report of the first phase or foundational phase done in June.

"We would endeavour to wrap up the study by late June or sometime in July at the latest," Cook said.

A development charges study for the county and its municipalities will be tied into the review, said Peter Simicisko, who is also a managing partner at Watson and Associates.

He described how the provincial government's Bill 23, the More Homes Built Faster Act, will affect development charges and capital costs.

"We will be addressing these [legislative changes] in detail as we proceed through the development charges background study process and we will have an opportunity to discuss these in more detail once we come back to present the draft findings later in the year," Simicisko said.

Councillor Cecil Ryall, Highlands East's deputy mayor, said the people once dubbed seasonal residents have taken to staying for longer periods. He wasn't sure if they would have an impact on the study, but their use of services has increased. Indication of that increase is seen at landfills.

Ryall wondered if that population segment could be included in the review.

Simicisko said they will consider a number of data sources in compiling the growth review.

Coun. Bob Carter, the mayor of Minden Hills, said he's highly supportive of the county and its lower tier municipalities adopting development charges.

"As we expand, the demands on the infrastructure are such that we are going to have to make some very large purchases over the next while," he said.

But Carter is skeptical the demographic information gleaned through the study will be even close to reflective of the county's residential reality. He said many of the people who spend most of the year in the county list their main address in Toronto or other locales.

"This is partially because we have limited medical services here," Carter said. "Nobody wants to give up their doctor. So they tell OHIP that they're still living in Toronto so they keep their doctor in Toronto."

That means Toronto is getting all the funding for those people.

"We've got countless number of people across the county that are like that," Carter said.

And, he said, such realities will skew growth studies.

"If we don't get some housing, we're not going to get a population growth of people who are workers," he said. "Most of the people who are moving here are retirees. And they're retirees moving into a dwelling they already have."

# Money and support available for local not-for-profits

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Staff Reporter

The Haliburton County Development Corporation (HCDC) officially opened their applications for their Local Initiatives Program (LIP) on Jan. 30. "This is a really special program," said Heather Reid, program & operations coordinator for HCDC, "because it's an opportunity for organizations to try something for the very first time, and just see if it works."

HCDC distributes between \$40,000 and \$100,000 annually through the LIP program, with a focus on not-for-profits. The criteria for the program is broad, and according to HCDC, applications must encompass the following points:

- Contribute to the resiliency and vibrancy of the community;

- Are incremental (incremental is defined as a new initiative, enhance existing activities, in addition to existing activities);

- Involve not-for-profit organizations that strive to enhance the community economic development efforts of the community;

- Address the strategic priorities of the Haliburton County Development Corporation;

- Guarantee that the funding will not create a dependency on the corporation;

- Not produce market disruption.

The LIP has been available through HCDC since 2015, and made possible by transferring from their investment fund and applying it back into the community interest earned through lending activities to businesses in the area. Since its inception in 2015, over \$45,000 has been distributed to not-for-profit businesses and organizations in the community.

"Receiving the funding is a really great way for not-

for-profits to get the ball rolling," said Reid, who shared that through the application process, interested parties also receive access to the support and resources HCDC has available. These services include business support, grant information, and assistance with financial questions.

"A lot of people don't know that it's our job to help," said Reid. "We want to help! I promise, you're not bugging us if you reach out!" Reid shared that she looks forward to the applications, and working with individuals who she believes makes Haliburton County brighter.

The deadline for applications is March 13, but Reid encouraged applicants to submit by March 6, so that HCDC can provide ample feedback and support to the application. She also welcomed all questions and inquiries applicants may have leading up to the deadline. Successful applicants will be informed at the end of March. Visit [www.haliburtoncdc.ca](http://www.haliburtoncdc.ca) for more information.

## Razzamataz brings in international circus act

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Staff Reporter

Razzamataz Kids' Show are back at it again. Less than a month since their successful viewing of the *Odawa Wiingushk* performance, the organizers for children's programming in the area are presenting another wacky and whimsical spectacle on Feb. 4.

The Kif-Kif sisters are internationally acclaimed performers, having strutted their stuff in Mexico, Korea, Switzerland, Japan to name a few places. They have also performed with Théâtre de l'Aubergine and the Cirque du Soleil. The act is composed of two identical twin sisters, who originally hailed from Quebec City. Françoise and Josette Lépine tie the theme of "twinship" into their multi-disciplinary act, incorporating music, theatre, circus, and visual arts to create "twice the action, twice the fun."

Tickets are available for the show at [www.razzamataz.ca](http://www.razzamataz.ca), and are \$10 for adults and \$7 for kids. There is only one viewing, which will be held on Saturday, Feb. 4 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion at 10 a.m.

The Kif Kif Sisters are making their debut in Haliburton County on Feb. 4 with Razzamataz Kids' Shows. The identical twin act has travelled the world performing outside the box circus acts. /Photo submitted



## Canadian Parents for French invite you to storytime

VIVIAN COLLINGS

Editor

Canadian Parents for French (CPF) are inviting families to a morning of French stories at the Haliburton County Public Library Haliburton branch on Saturday, Feb. 11 to introduce the language to pre-school age children.

The storytime is meant to allow parents to see their child's reception to learning a second language before enrolling them in school.

"Having a fun setting like this can give parents that insight as to whether their child is receptive or intimidated by French," said French immersion teacher and CPF member Stephanie Ward. "It also gives the child context so that if they are starting French in Grade 1, instead of being a foreign language, it's that one they had fun learning at the library."

The collaboration between the library and CPF has allowed for the purchase of French storytime books for the library.

Starting at 10:30 a.m., Sharon Wilson, a French Immersion teacher, leads the storytime by singing songs and games geared towards newborns to age six, and it will be the last in a series of four storytimes.

"Sharon was thinking about the goal of CPF being to increase bilingualism in Canada, and recognized that our Early Years population was being under served. She came up with the idea to have a French Storytime program geared towards children and parents in a fun setting before they had to make the decision to choose French Immersion or English stream," Ward said.



The Canadian Parents for French local chapter is hosting their final French storytime at the Haliburton library on Saturday, Feb. 11 at 10:30 a.m. /Photos submitted

This allows for parents to make an informed decision about whether to enroll their child in French immersion or not by the time they reached kindergarten age.

CPF is a national organization with a goal to increase bilingualism in Canada.

"They do this by supporting French immersion programs, core French programs, and extended French programs. They do homework help, virtual, and in-person activities and programs. They support French summer camps, they help organize and run French adult classes, so it's not specific to children," Ward said.

The local CPF chapter is the most active in Ontario, and they set a goal to host an event each month. So far, they have attended open houses and held public skating, games nights, and a movie night.

Ward also said members of CPF Ontario will be present to help celebrate the final storytime, and refreshments will be served.

"The reason they are going to be in town is to do a site visit because they are looking at Haliburton as the location for their annual meeting next October. Often it's held at larger areas around Ontario, so we are excited to host them here," She said.

The French storytime at the library is a free event. Their other events are free for CPF members, and they ask for a \$5 donation for non-members. For more information, visit [cpf.ca/en/](http://cpf.ca/en/).

"If you have a child learning French and are looking for support, this is a great place to turn," Ward said.



Team Colliver sweeps a rock during the final A game of the Skyline Men's Bonspiel on Sunday, Jan. 22 at the Haliburton Curling Club. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff



Steve Colliver has been curling at the Haliburton Curling Club for nearly 50 years and competed in the Skyline Men's Bonspiel with his brother Brent, son Jesse, and nephew Chris Colliver.



Dale Sokolowski, left, and Glen Hannah from Peterborough compete in the Men's Skyline Bonspiel.

## Haliburton curling: A family tradition

VIVIAN COLLINGS

*Editor*

The history of the Colliver family is written in the walls and on the ice surface of the Haliburton Curling Club.

Brothers Steve and Brent and their sons Jesse and Chris recently competed in the 62nd annual Men's Skyline Bonspiel at the Haliburton Curling Club from Jan. 20 to 22.

Among 24 other teams, with 22 from out of town, the Collivers finished as runners-up in the A bracket.

"Thisspiel started when I was born," Steve said. "We moved here in 1969, so I was 10 or 11 years old, and my Dad was an ice maker."

At the time, Steve said all of the children his age resented the curling club because there was no junior curling at the time.

"The old club was only adults, and it was all work for us kids. We would come before school and drag the hose behind Dad while he was putting the ice in."

"My parents loved curling, and that's how we got into it, but there was no opportunity for us until we got to high school," Steve said. "All three of us curled here as soon as we could; my sister, my brother, and myself."

After university, he became the icemaker and bartender at the Haliburton Curling Club for two, sliding in his father's footsteps.

Steve then attended teacher's college and retired in Haliburton County with his wife in 2015. He said the club allows for social interaction that they otherwise wouldn't get in the winter.

"It's a great bonspiel, and people come from everywhere to participate," he said.

This year, the Men's Skyline Bonspiel had 14 returning teams and eight new ones said chair of the Men's Skyline Bonspiel Dave Moss.

On Saturday, Jan. 21, the club invited Carl Dixon to play music and celebrate the return of the spiel.

"We had a really nice concert last night with him playing an acoustic show," Steve said.

Kent Milford has been a member of the Haliburton Curling Club since 2012 and is an organizer of the event. He said it continues to get more popular each year.

"Over the last four or five years, we have tried to rejuvenate the spiel and bring it up to modern times. Even after COVID, this spiel was full with a waitlist to get in," Milford said.

Milford said the Haliburton Curling Club has 50 new members this year.

"We're really pleased that not only has this bonspiel come back, but the whole club has come right back to where we were pre-COVID with numbers," Milford said.



### Practice makes perfect

Jessica Lee sets up for a jump jump during Minden Skating Club's practice at the SG Nesbitt Arena on Friday, Jan. 27. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff



Emily Fitzell executes a sit spin during Minden Skating Club's practice at the SG Nesbitt Arena.



### A win and a loss for Huskies

The Haliburton County Huskies score a goal against the Wellington Dukes during their game on Saturday, Jan. 28. The Huskies won 3-2, but lost 6-3 on Sunday, Jan. 29 against the Burlington Cougars. /TIM YANO Special to the Echo



Haliburton County Huskies defencemen Zack Morissette reaches for the puck during their game against the Wellington Dukes.

*Crossword brought to you by*

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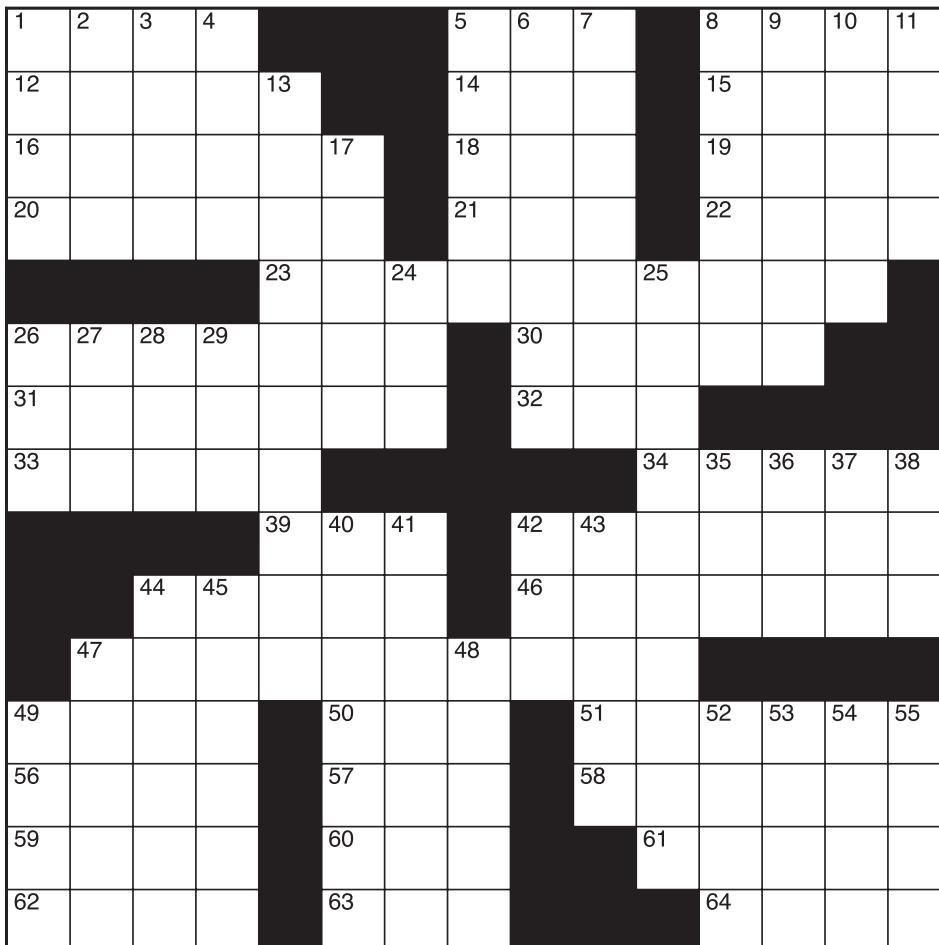
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1. River in Tuscany
5. A way to represent
8. Rocker's guitar
12. Civil Rights group
14. Brew
15. Scratch
16. W. Asian country
18. The Eye Network
19. Clarified butter
20. Part of the Cascade Range
21. Downwind
22. A way to steer
23. Loop
26. Not ingested
30. Swampy coniferous forest
31. Musician
32. Signing
33. Containing iron
34. Part of a theorem or proof
39. Veterans battleground (slang)
42. Of enormous proportions
44. Italian city
46. Come before
47. Balm
49. Undergarments
50. Male parent
51. Ropes
56. Ear part
57. Investment vehicle
58. Dictator
59. Cain and \_\_
60. A type of code
61. Border river along India and Nepal
62. It's what's for dinner
63. Consume
64. Christian \_\_, designer

#### CLUES DOWN

1. Cuckoos

2. Skin issue
3. City in central Japan
4. Sorrels
5. Twinned diamond
6. Canadian province
7. Monetary units
8. Head honcho
9. Goddess of wisdom
10. Part of a play
11. Get rid of
13. Applicant
17. Bowling alleys have many
24. Explosive
25. "The Say Hey Kid"
26. Ultrahigh frequency
27. No (Scottish)
28. Make a mistake
29. Credit card term
35. Keyboard key
36. Woman (French)
37. In the middle of
38. Score perfectly
40. Coat a metal with an oxide coat
41. Deadly disease
42. A place to dock a boat (abbr.)
43. Belch
44. Member of U.S. Navy
45. "In \_\_": separate from others
47. Examine extensively
48. Adjust
49. Tattle
52. Actor Pitt
53. Gulls
54. Within
55. Exceptionally talented performer

*Answers on page 14*



#### Men's Day at the hill

The Bishop brothers, from left, Chris, JD, Steve, and Drew, enjoy a drink after skiing on Men's Day at Sir Sam's on Friday, Jan. 27. The event included prizes, games, breakfast, barbecue lunch, and dinner. /Submitted by Dan Collings

## Local high school to benefit from Environmental Summit

**CHRIS DROST**

*Staff Reporter*

The invitations have gone out to high schools in Haliburton, Bancroft, Barry's Bay and Peterborough for the first Environmental Summit at the Algonquin Visitor Centre on March 31. The event is being organized by the Bancroft Area Stewardship Council and Trent University's Careerspace and the Trent Community Research Centre, with much appreciated support from Algonquin Provincial Park.

BASC had initially planned the inaugural Environmental Summit for late April 2020. Just as things got into full swing, COVID-19 hit, and the event has to be cancelled. Now, with the interest and organizational support from Trent University, things are shaping up for a successful and informative event that will target high school level students from across the region.

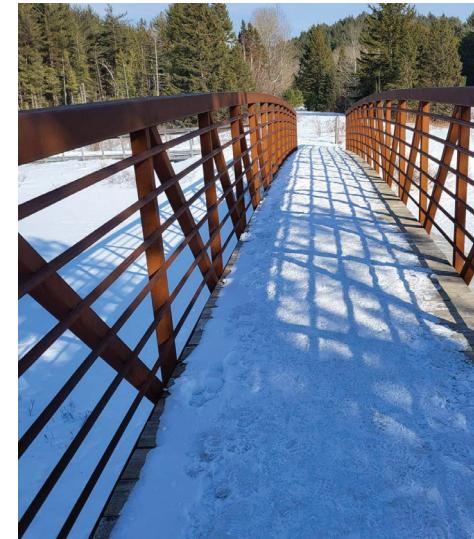
"We welcome the group with open arms. Algonquin Park is the birthplace of outdoor education," said chief park naturalist for the Discovery Program, Peter Simons. The Visitor Centre will be used exclusively for this event on March 31.

The theme for the Environmental Summit is "youth, careers and climate change." A full slate of speakers is being assembled who will share their knowledge and expertise with the young participants.

The keynote speaker will be Nick LaCombe, a young graduate of Trent/Fleming. He is expected to inspire with his address that will tie in climate change and careers in the environmental field. LaCombe is a senior technician with the Harkness Laboratory of Fisheries Research Ontario, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

Students will be bussed from their respective high schools to the Algonquin Visitor Centre. "We are excited to be able to cover the cost of bussing for the students but would greatly appreciate any other sponsorship donations," said BASC director and member of the organizing team, Steve Wilkins.

After the keynote address, students will rotate through a selection of speakers of their choosing and will have an opportunity for a Visitor Centre tour led by one of



The Bancroft Area Stewardship Council and Trent University's Careerspace and Trent Community Research Centre will be holding an Environmental Summit for high school students from Haliburton, Bancroft, Barry's Bay, and Peterborough on March 31 in the Visitor Centre at Algonquin Park. The theme for the event will be "youth, careers and climate change." /Photo courtesy of Danielle Switzer

the park naturalists.

Following the lunch period, there will be additional speakers before everyone heads outside for guided interactive tours near the Visitor Centre. Staff naturalists will lead tours on the Fire Tower Trail and along a trail through the woods where there will be plenty of opportunity to view wildlife, practice tracking and do some bird watching.

Organizations are also being invited to set up information booths for the students to visit throughout the day.

Following the outdoor session, a panel is planned that will focus on the paths to a career in the environmental sector.

For those with general questions about the Environmental Summit, contact Ryan Sisson, manager of Community and Workplace Partnerships at Trent University, rsisson@trentu.ca

If you or your organization can provide a sponsorship donation to help offset the costs of this educational event, please contact Steve Wilkins at BASC, steveg-wilkins@gmail.com

# A look in to life at the hatchery

CLEM GROB

*Special to the Echo*

The Haliburton Fish Hatchery has stocked over 100 lakes in the Haliburton Region with over 700,000 fish. The hatchery is the largest volunteer-run hatchery in Ontario, with 85 volunteers and 100 members.

The Haliburton Fish Hatchery works in conjunction with the MNRF, which advises the hatchery on which lakes should be stocked and which species are used for stocking. Some fish that the hatchery stock with come directly from the MNR, which are received as fry-sized minnows. These fish are raised in the hatchery for about 8 months, after which they are stocked into local lakes.

However, most fish stocked into Haliburton lakes are raised from eggs in the hatchery and released once they reach fingerling size. These eggs are collected from local populations within healthy lakes around the county, especially Halls Lake, where easy access permits egg collection. Volunteers collect eggs in October, and these eggs are raised within the hatchery for 18 months. They reach maturity in May, and they are released into lakes around the county.

HHOA president Dan Smith explained the benefit of raising fish in the hatchery.

"In the wild, fish eggs only have a 1 per cent chance of success," he said. "In the hatchery, eggs have a 60 to 70 per cent success rate, increasing the number of mature individuals that survive."

While their main goal at the hatch-



ery is to promote the fishing industry of the highlands, they also focus on conservation of our lakes and wildlife through community awareness. "When a large fish is caught, anglers can choose to take pictures, measure girth and length, and release the fish, and by doing that they are preserving a reproductive asset to the lake," Smith said.

Smith plays an important role on the HHOA Board of Directors, while helping

out at the hatchery as much as possible.

"The hatchery is completely not for profit, so a lot of my work is involved in organizing funding," said Smith. "We rely on our fundraisers, grants, donations, and community support."

Prior to the pandemic, the hatchery had a number of fundraiser events including their wild game dinner, chicken and rib dinner, Septemberfest, and more. With COVID-19 restrictions, these events were

Fish hatched at the HHOA Fish Hatchery have a 60 to 70 per cent success rate as opposed to a one per cent success rate in the wild. /CLEM GROB Special to the Echo

not possible anymore. The hatchery is now running a 50/50 draw, which can be found on the HHOA website.

"The 50/50 is a chance for people to support their local hatchery and have the chance to make some money," Smith said.

The hatchery is located at the HHOA headquarters on Gelert Road in Haliburton. This location also has a rental space equipped with a Smart TV and numerous wildlife displays. At this location, they have hosted a firearms course, hunter safety course and more.

Finally, the hatchery relies on volunteers to stay operating. The fish have feeding schedules that must be met daily, and other upkeep to keep them healthy. Being a fisherman all his life, Smith started volunteering at the hatchery years ago, when he first moved to Haliburton county. His initial intent was to "find out where the fish are," but his experience turned into much more. He found himself immersed in the great outdoors, getting involved in his community, and meeting many other like-minded people.

"It's a lot of fun to volunteer here, the positivity of this place is amazing," Smith said. "It's a great way to spend your spare time, and everyone here loves to fish."



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- Supports the implementation of the 2024-2027 Strategic plan and ensures that all decisions are made in accordance with the Plan
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All applications are welcome, in particular from persons with a background in clinical (professional staff and allied health included), human resources, patient/family experience, construction/facility management, and quality of care. Before applying, please visit our website at [www.prhc.on.ca](http://www.prhc.on.ca) and click on **About PRHC/Board of Directors** for more detail.

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Submit an application along with a resume by February 17, 2023 to the Chair, Nominating Sub-Committee, c/o Margaret Clark, Senior Executive Assistant, Administration, Peterborough Regional Health Centre, One Hospital Drive, Peterborough, ON, K9J 7C6, or email [mclark@prhc.on.ca](mailto:mclark@prhc.on.ca)

# Giving a VOICE to everyone

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Staff Reporter

Come And Sit Together. That's the theme of VOICE, a peer support group led by individuals with lived experiences with trauma, mental health, mood, and substance abuse issues. "A lot of humans are suffering," shared Tom Regehr, one of the organizers of the program. "We want to listen."

Regehr is the founder of Come And Sit Together (CAST) Canada, which offers training across the country to help professionals, corporations and communities better understand the role of trauma and unresolved grief in human suffering and behaviors.

He shared with the *Echo* that his passion to share this material stems from his own background, which included personal struggles with homelessness, alcohol and substance abuse, and unaddressed childhood trauma. "When I was working through my early days of recovery, I noticed that a lot of support services didn't

understand exactly why we were stuck," he said.

Regehr said that in his recovery journey, he accessed a series of services, hoping to find something that clicked and where he felt supported. Yet, there was often a divide between those who had suffered, and medical professionals who only looked at the facts as opposed to the stories.

It was by navigating the needs and gaps of these social services, that Regehr felt compelled to listen and share his own stories with those exploring recovery. In 1999, he started the first CAST support groups, where he welcomed individuals from all walks of life to sit, share, listen, and connect. This program grew quickly, with eager individuals wanting to engage in the safe space. It has now evolved into over 100 panel discussions between individuals in recovery, and front line professionals.

Regehr noted that while he has been in the world of healthcare professionals and substance abuse support since 1999, he has never seen the level of commitment to helping a community that he is currently witnessing in Haliburton County. He shared that he is working with Point in Time, SIRCH, the Haliburton Highlands

Chamber of Commerce, and the Haliburton County Public Libraries, all of whom welcomed his programming, and offered ways to help promote and support along the way. He also noted the Haliburton County Mental Health and Substance Use Working Group through Point in Time was the organization responsible for seed money for the program.

The structure of the program is split into two parts, with the first half focusing on sitting, talking, and sharing in a supportive and contained environment, followed by discussions about how the community can support those in need, as well as educating participants on access to grants, social services, and project funding. Regehr noted that while the program is not anonymous, it is founded in confidentiality, common sense, and respect.

The VOICE sessions are planned for Haliburton at SIRCH Cafe on Feb. 8 from 6:30-9 p.m., Minden at the Lions Club on Feb. 9 from 12-2:30 p.m., and on Zoom on Feb. 13 from 7 to 9 p.m. For more information, you can email [voice@thecastprojects.ca](mailto:voice@thecastprojects.ca), text 705-749-6145, or visit [www.voicehaliburton.weebly.com](http://www.voicehaliburton.weebly.com).



## SIRCH Bistro hosts Thursday game nights

About a dozen people enjoyed some quality entertainment at SIRCH Bistro's weekly board game night on Thursday, Jan. 26 in Haliburton. Jacob Outram, Chris Sutcliffe, Magan Jenkins and Lauren Phillips worked to gather resources in an effort to build the largest settlement on Catan. /ADAM FRISK Special to the Echo



Heather Brodie and Allison Tyne enjoy a game of Rummikub.



Board game enthusiasts check out different game options before settling down for the evening.

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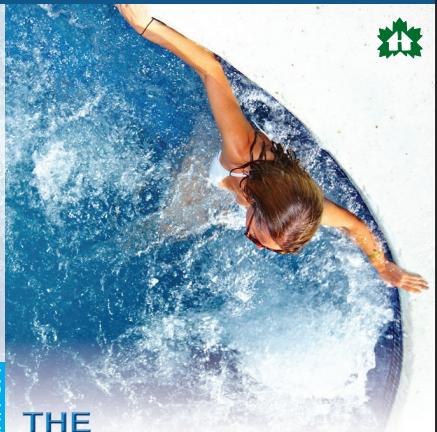
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*We thank all of those who apply, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Accommodations for applicants with disabilities will be provided upon request. The Municipality of Dysart et al is an equal opportunity employer. Personal information is collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used only for employment purposes.*



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COMPENSATION:	Commensurate with Experience
UNION:	Non-Union
AVAILABLE TO:	Internal & External Candidates
DATE POSTED:	January 24, 2023

As innovative leaders in rural health care delivery, Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) offers the spectrum of services with the goal of achieving improved local access to health services and quality of care for patients, residents and clients. HHHS promotes wellness and provides high quality health services including Primary Care, Hospital Care (Acute In-patient and Emergency Care), Long-term Care, End-of-Life Care, Mental Health and Addictions Care, and an array of Community Support Services on two sites. New investments in community programs, including a Geriatric Assessment and Intervention Network (GAIN) Team, a Palliative Care Community Team, Assisted Living Services for High-Risk Seniors and a Community Physiotherapy Clinic are all focused on supporting the residents of the Haliburton Highlands to stay healthy in their homes for as long as possible.

**POSITION DESCRIPTION:**

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) has an exciting opportunity for a highly motivated, self-starting individual with strong accounting and organizational skills to join the team as our Senior Financial Analyst. Reporting to the Manager, Finance, the Senior Financial Analyst will have responsibility for providing services in relation to accounting, business analysis and management decision support for the overall organization. This includes: general accounting; monthly and quarterly management reporting; meaningful results analysis; government reporting; and annual audits for the organization. They will also play a role in business analysis and management decision support by: creating and maintaining detailed budget models; designing and providing valuable management reports and metrics; working with managers to provide thorough analyses of results against budget and forecast.

**POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Prepares monthly journal entries and analyses • Prepares consolidated financial statements for various stakeholders
- Prepares quarterly variance reports for stakeholders to facilitate decision making • Responsible for maintenance of chart of accounts and compliance with financial reporting guidelines • Involved in budgeting process and support to management
- Provide sound and timely financial and business information to the Finance Manager, CFO, executive leadership team, and clinical programs • Performs detailed reconciliations • Monitor, analyze and reconcile variances from approved plan, consolidating remedial action plans to attain budgeted targets and mitigate run rates • Assist in the preparation of cash flow, working capital and total margin projections and analysis • Assists in year-end audit • Assists as required in ad-hoc/specialized assignments including change management • Prepare and evaluate key statistical and financial performance indicators

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

To achieve this, the successful candidate must possess:

- Post-secondary degree in a relevant field (e.g. Accounting/Business Administration and/or relevant field)
- Professional Accounting Designation is preferred
- Previous experience in preparing budgets, analyzing financial and related statistical data to identify trends, relationships, and opportunities
- Ontario Health Reporting Standards (OQRS) knowledge and exposure to DADS and NACRS is an asset
- Strong aptitude for analysis, interpretation, and presentation of financial and statistical data
- Ability to take initiative, communicate and embrace challenges
- Sound professional judgment, initiative, and the ability to multi-task and meet tight deadlines
- Experience or knowledge of in-house payroll
- Advanced computer and information systems skills including Excel, Word
- Excellent organization, communication, and interpersonal skills

**SUBMIT RESUME TO:**

Human Resources  
 Haliburton Highlands Health Services  
 Box 115, Haliburton, ON, K0M 1S0  
 E-mail: [hr@hhhs.ca](mailto:hr@hhhs.ca)  
 Fax: 705-457-4609

**PLEASE QUOTE JOB NUMBER:  
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2023-10  
 February 15, 2023 @ 1600 Hours



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## 650 OBITUARIES

**In loving memory**  
**Shirley Hamilton (nee Lynde)**  
Resident of Halls Lake, Ontario.

Passed in her sleep the early morning of January 24th, 2023, in her 87th year. Beloved wife of the late William (Bill) Hamilton. Loving mother of Greg Hamilton (April). Beloved grandmother of Sadie, Sawyer and Amelia. Deeply missed by her sister Carol Monaghan (Brian) and her many nieces and nephews. Shirley is fondly remembered for her welcoming personality, involvement in local choirs, and her ability to make a delicious meal appear for any number of guests on a moment's notice. A thank you to the staff of Spencer House in Orillia for taking such good care of Shirley in her final years.

Friends are invited to join the family in celebrating Shirley's life at Lakeside Church, 9 Park St, Haliburton ON K0M1S0. A service will be held at 2pm the afternoon of Saturday, February 4th.

**In Loving Memory of**  
**Thomasina "Ina" Hobbs**

Passed away peacefully at Hyland Crest Senior Citizens Home, Minden on Saturday, January 21, 2023, in her 99th year.

Beloved wife of the late John. Dear mother of Fred (deceased) and his wife Maryanne of BC, Philip and his wife Bonnie of Bancroft, Jackie and her husband Lonnie of Minden. Loving grandma of Chris (Darlene), Mandy, Mark (Aimee), Shaun (Lisa), Jaime (Gavin) and great grandma of Allison, Emily, Hudson, Lucas, Sophia, Olivia, Carson, Parker and Kylie. Predeceased by her one brother and two sisters. It was Ina's wish for cremation and a private family celebration of her life at a later date.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation-Hyland Crest Residents Council (HHHSF-Hyland Crest Residents Council) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

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INSIDE  
THIS WEEK:

PRAISE FOR HODGSON

*People say it will be a long time before another politician has as much impact*

PATIENT NEWS' BIG MOVE

*Haliburton-based newsletter publication company outgrows its cramped quarters*

SNOWARAMA HELPS KIDS

*Fun day for snowmobilers is also a terrific fundraiser for Easter Seals*

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# THE ECHO

HALIBURTON COUNTY

Tuesday, January 14, 2003  
Vol. 120 No. 8  
\$1 including GST

## Hodgson says it's time for a change

*Tory MPP quits politics to have 'better quality of life' in the private sector*

MARTHA PERKINS

Editor

On Thursday morning, Chris Hodgson was just a normal dad, driving his son Cody to the Silver Sticks hockey tournament in Sarnia.

That's just how he wants life to be right now. Normal.

And that's why, less than 24

hours earlier, Hodgson was in the media spotlight answering questions about why he's resigning immediately as the Minister of Municipal Affairs. He'll stay as the MPP for Haliburton-Victoria-Brock until the next election.

After nine years at Queen's Park, including eight years in the provincial government's

cabinet, Hodgson says it's time to devote a little more time to his family.

"I want to have a better quality of life," he said in a telephone interview during the drive to Sarnia. "I'm just looking forward to change. I'm 41 years old and if I'm going to have a change, it's the right time to do it..."

"It's the right time to get on with our lives."

Hodgson has four young children and the oldest, Clayton, was very sick before Christmas with a viral infection. Although he'd been thinking of retiring from cabinet before that, the experience highlighted his awareness that "children grow up too quickly."

Politics gave him little time to spend at home and when asked if his change in priorities has anything to do with his children, he said "that's 100% of it." Hodgson's younger brother Andrew, who is executive director of the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario, said he

*See Hodgson page 14*

## Laurie Scott first to announce Tory bid

MARTHA PERKINS

Editor

One of Laurie Scott's earliest memories is sitting on a stage, gloved hands folded neatly on her lap, as she listened politely to Premier Leslie Frost give a speech.

She was four years old and her father, the late Bill Scott, had recently been elected as this riding's Tory Member of Parliament, a position he would hold from 1965 to 1993.

Thirty-six years later, on a snowy Monday morning, she left her house in Kinmount at 6 o'clock and headed for Ottawa, where she works as a Conservative senator's assistant. Given how many times she watched her father set out in the dark on the same journey, it was *déjà vu* all over again, only this time she was the one behind the steering wheel.

Until last week, this was a pilgrimage Scott envisioned herself making regularly. Her hope was to become this riding's next MP, taking the seat from her Liberal opponent, John O'Reilly.

But on Wednesday, when MPP Chris Hodgson made his surprise announcement that he

*See Scott page 11*



Dog power

A dogsled racer makes his way up a hill during the eight-dog race in the 2nd annual Haliburton Highlands Dogsled Races on Saturday, January 11. There were more than 80 competitors who competed and came from across Ontario, Quebec and even the United States. Hundreds of people watched the races that ran the entire weekend. See pages 8 and 9 for more photos.

Photo by Darren Lum

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